

States-General insisted on their withdrawal as the indispensable condition of a subsidy. Philip evidently knew all about his intrigues, and when about to take his departure reproved him for his opposition. William put the responsibility on the States-General. "Not the Estates," burst out Philip, angrily clutching the prince's wrist, "but you ! you ! you !" Philip divined the truth; perhaps also he divined the great enemy of the future. At any rate there was no affinity between the two.

It would be pure partiality to see in William of Orange at this period the absolutely disinterested patriot. He was ambitious and enterprising, eager to play a greater *role* in the government than that of Stadholder of Holland, Zealand, and Utrecht. He was a born politician, insinuating, profound, far-seeing, skilful in combination, and at this period his diplomatic powers were by no means directed solely to the advantage of his adopted country. The personal element in the policy of the ambitious young magnate who ruminated so deeply, while he wrote exemplary letters to Philip, to Margaret, to Granvelle, must be discounted. He was as yet the leader of a number of discontented nobles rather than of the nation, and the main thing for these malcontents was to energise their own influence in affairs. Still, in the main, his attitude is defensible on public grounds. The knowledge of the sinister trend of Philip's policy, gained at Paris—the brutal extirpation of heresy by means of Spanish soldiery—might well have stirred the moderate Catholic, such as he was, to activity in circumventing by intrigue what it was dangerous to thwart by open opposition. Intrigue he undoubtedly did, but intrigue was the only *modus operandi* under a Philip II. And if he was ambitious of playing a first *role*, his ambition was that of an enlightened magnate. It was, on the whole, directed to great ends, to the mitigation of savage intolerance, the thwarting of arbitrary government. Thus he was led by various influences, personal and patriotic, to make proof of his diplomatic ability in fomenting a national opposition to the Spanish Philip and his Spanish policy. Moreover, though not a Dutchman born, he had by education become a good Netherlander, and had by inheritance vast interests at stake in the country of his adoption. He succeeded in gaining